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CIA/SAVA /WVIND 701205



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 5 December 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

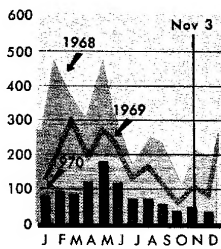
For the President Only

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

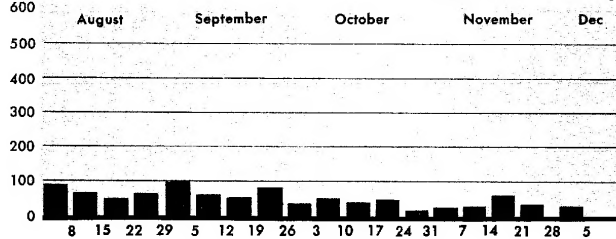
Weekly average for each month



AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1970

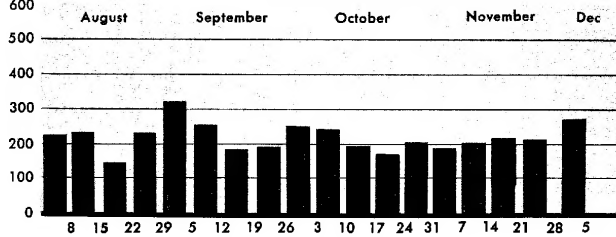
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS



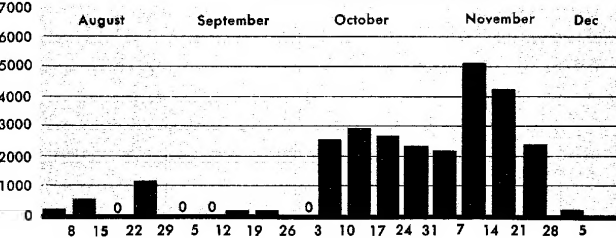
decreased slightly to 27 from last week's 32, but does not include the C-123 air crash victims who have not yet been identified

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



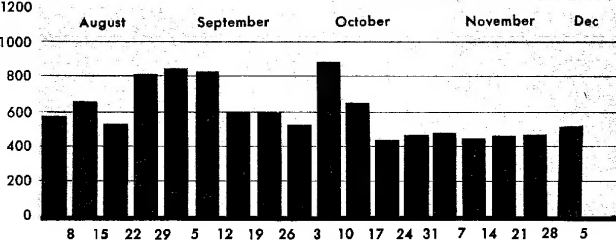
increased from last week's 221 to 267. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.

INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



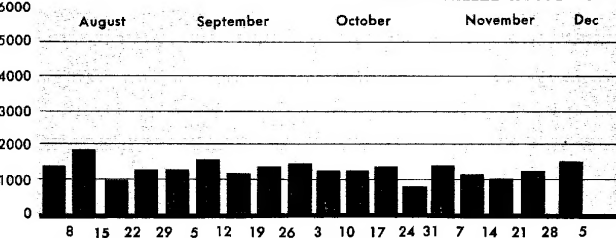
stand at five small, special purpose groups with a combined strength of 140. The number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 is an estimated 25,000 - 27,500.

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



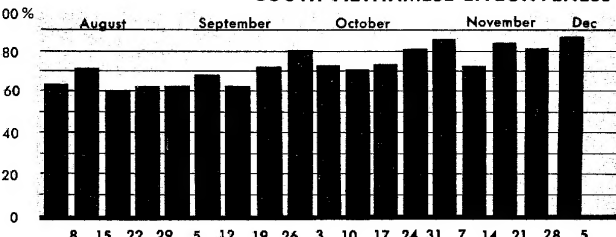
rose to 528 from last week's 453 reflecting an increase in attacks by fire and ground probes.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



climbed to 1,425 from the 1,300 of last week.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces increased to 86% from last week's 82%.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

In South Vietnam, enemy-initiated activity remained at generally low levels except in the central part of the country, where there was a notable increase in attacks by fire. The recently initiated ARVN foray into the U Minh Forest in the Delta has thus far uncovered little in terms of enemy supplies and only light contacts have been made, but does reflect the aggressive posture advocated by the new Military Region commander and, further, involves a serious move into what has been a Communist controlled enclave for over two decades.

In Laos, over the weekend Communist forces launched intense attacks on the last major government base (Site 22) on the eastern edge of the Bolovens Plateau. These attacks were repulsed, partly because of unusually vigorous FAR actions stimulated by Souvanna's personal concern. The government operation targeted at the enemy buildup north of the Bolovens has yet to make significant contact as it moves forward toward Thateng. In the north, the spoiling operation against Ban Ban is making slow but apparently steady progress as friendly irregulars converge on the Communist strategic logistics complex.

In Cambodia, the "Battle of the Roads" continued during the week as Communist harassing attacks and ambushes along most of the country's main lines of communication have kept sizeable numbers of government troops isolated and/or on the defensive.

Enemy Infiltration

Only five small, special purpose groups with a combined strength of 140 were added to the infiltration estimate during the week. Despite the lack of recent detections, Hanoi's infiltration effort probably continues in high gear as enemy communications reveal exhortations to implement "crash programs" to move men and materiel quickly through the pipeline. Indeed, the pipeline input for November of 14,700 destined for South Vietnam/Cambodia and 2,600 for duty in southern Laos was the highest for any month this year and more than double the 7,300 of November 1969. From past experience, we expect that manpower inputs into the pipeline will continue to increase until a peak is reached during the December-February period. The total number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 is now an estimated 25,000 - 27,500.

South Vietnam Developments

The candidate favored by President Thieu, Tran Van Linh, was elected Chief Justice of the Supreme Court by a 9 to 7 vote of the court's members. The independent-minded and politically ambitious former Chief Justice, Tran Minh Tiet, had incurred Thieu's disfavor because of the court's rulings against the government on cases involving taxes, anti-government students, and Lower House Deputy Chau. The position of Chief Justice will be especially important this year because he serves as chairman of the Central Electoral Council, which will pass on the qualifications of candidates and review allegations of irregularities in the Lower House and presidential elections during 1971. Tiet had been widely hailed for the fairness of the recent Senate elections, and his defeat by a justice considered close to Thieu will cause some outcry from the opposition.

The GVN security services have begun to roll up an important enemy strategic intelligence network which has been operating in the Saigon-Bien Hoa area. Of the 30 agents in the network, 23 have been positively identified by name and seven have been arrested, including the deputy chief of ARVN communications. The identified agents also include a member of the GVN Military Security Service and an official on President Thieu's anti-corruption committee.

Communist Developments

Colonel Ha Van Lau, NVA liaison chief with the ICC and former deputy head of the DRV Paris delegation, reportedly said in reaction to the November 21 limited air strikes that North Vietnam accepts the fact of continued air reconnaissance and occasional air strikes in response to Communist firings on reconnaissance aircraft. He added, however, that North Vietnam will continue to try to shoot down reconnaissance aircraft. He is reported as saying that the limited U.S. air strikes would not lead

Hanoi to break off the Paris talks. Ha Van Lau's remarks represent a realistic attitude on the part of a North Vietnamese official who was party to the DRV-US meetings in the fall of 1968 that led to the bombing halt understanding.

The Hanoi press has given unusual publicity to the recent trial and sentencing of three middle-level officials in the DRV Ministry of Internal Trade to rather stiff prison terms for their abuse, misuse and misappropriation of state-owned property. In publicizing this case, the regime is thereby seeking to demonstrate its resolve to act against malfeasant officials and give teeth to the recent decrees aimed against the misuse of public and private property in North Vietnam.

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